

DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE
PATIENT NETWORK GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023
AT DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY AT 1.30 PM

Present: Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Sheila Frith (Assistant Secretary), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Joyce Jones, Brian Malpas, Dawn Alston, Ann Wright, Kath Ratcliffe, Judith Hearnshaw

Apologies for absence: Amrit Mistry

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022

These were approved as a correct record and there were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

For the ad hoc meeting on 23rd January 2023

The minutes were approved with the following items noted.

Those present confirmed their agreement to the new name for the group of Patient Network Group.

Dawn said that she had proposed a walking group for babies and care givers. The proposal was warmly welcomed.

A date for the AGM has still to be confirmed.

We welcomed Judith Hearnshaw back to the PPG after a long break.

Changes to the Constitution

Geoff opened this item by acknowledging that the document needed revision in light of 3 or 4 years of operation and experience gained. Several suggestions for change had been identified and the group worked through and discussed each of the proposals.

One of the main issues was defining what "the Group" is and who are its members. There are reasons why interested parties cannot be full members and attend all meetings e.g. work and other demands etc. However, there are still those who are keen to participate in projects and who volunteer within the Practice in other ways. A registration form was considered to record this interest and a pro-forma is available. Technically, membership is available to all patients. It was agreed that anyone wishing to participate/join would meet with an officer (e.g. Chairperson or Secretary) to assess, clarify and record their level of commitment. The Executive Committee will comprise three officers and a minimum of six members. Officers are nominated and elected at the AGM and it was suggested that committee members could also restate their commitment at that time.

Everyone confirmed their agreement to the proposals and changes, and the new version of the Constitution will be drawn up.

Proposed activities for 2023

The existing successful walking group could be expanded to organise a Stroller/Buggy group and there are options to take this in other directions. Brian reported that he had discovered that there

is an enormous waiting list for an allotment. It was suggested that it's possible to link up with an existing organisation that already has an allotment. Brian said that the planters for the practice garden were almost complete and will provide a bright show in the coming months.

Sheila referred to a list of support groups suggested before the covid lockdowns. She felt that the walking group was a good example of how a group of people benefit from meeting regularly and having a shared aim. Individual groups would have a different focus though with no clinical input, purely support.

A craft/knitting group with a slightly different focus was proposed. If an area in the waiting room could be a visual link to the PNG, it could be updated every month to "celebrate" a current topic (a charity, a festival or celebration etc.) which would aim to reflect the diversity of the patient population. Sheila and Marion agreed to lead on this topic and look further into its possibilities. It was felt it could potentially lead to establishing a "listening table".

It was felt important to plan another health event. Sheila offered to lead on this event, probably to be held in September again.

It was acknowledged that this is an ambitious programme of events. We will need to attract more volunteers.

Staff Changes

A current GP vacancy has been filled and the successful candidate will start work with us in July. She will work 2 days/week initially.

A paramedic has been appointed to the other vacancy. Megan will work full-time hours over 4 days.

There are currently 2 administrative vacancies. One has been appointed to and the other is in the process of being.

Julie also reported that Joanne Clere will be leaving the Practice in a few weeks. The PNG sends Joanne their very best wishes for her new role and thanks her for the work she has done with them in the past. In order to properly gauge how these changes will impact on the management structure, the Practice has decided to hold off immediately appointing to the post, and to assess the wider needs.

Newsletter Contributions

Some items had already been received and there were a number of suggestions for others. Geoff will start to put the next issue together.

Any Other Business

Geoff asked Julie to contact Action Together regarding the promised funding.

Planned date of next PPG meeting and AGM

23rd March 2023 at 6.30 pm at St John's Church Hall, Dukinfield. **(To be confirmed)**

The meeting closed at 15.20.